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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

7 October 1973

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

APPROVED FOR RELEASE - CIA INFO DATE: 04-Sep-2012

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 9
(As of 2230 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. - The Israelis reportedly have halted the Syrian attack in the Golan Heights area, and the Israelis may be shifting more of their effort to the Sinai Peninsula. Jerusalem radio reported at mid-night Middle East time that Israel armored, artillery, and air forces were attacking in the Suez Canal area. The military situation along the Syrian border has been quiet since nightfall, whereas night fighting is taking place on the Egyptian front.

Israeli mobilization will be completed by noon local time on 8 October. Considerable mobilization has already been completed and several reserve regiments have already joined Israeli forces in the Sinai Peninsula and in the Golan Heights.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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EGYPTIAN FRONT

4. According to an official Israeli defense spokesman, the Egyptians succeeded in moving 400-500 tanks east of the Suez Canal by the end of daylight on 7 October. Another Israeli defense spokesman claimed that Israeli aircraft destroyed 9 of the 11 Egyptian pontoon bridges over the canal on the 7th. It is expected that some of these bridges will be repaired overnight. He went on to state that mobilized Israeli regiments were arriving at the Sinai front to increase the Israeli forces there.

5. The Israeli forces may have begun a series of night attacks in an attempt to hold ground until full mobilization, which they expect to achieve by noon Tel Aviv time on 8 October. An Israeli news broadcast claimed that Israeli armored, artillery, and air forces were attacking Egyptian forces east of the canal at midnight local time (1800 EDT).

At least ten Israeli aircraft were active over the area within 35 miles east of the canal at [redacted] and other Israeli aircraft operated west of the canal to suppress Egyptian antiaircraft missile and artillery.

7. In addition to air and ground attacks, the Israeli forces mounted a naval attack in the Port Said area. Seven Israeli Saar class missile boats were speeding towards Port Said. Also at sea in that region were Egyptian naval units, including at

- 2 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

least one Osa class missile boat. On the previous night (6-7 October), Egyptian naval units raided several Israeli positions on the north coast of the Sinai. In the Red Sea, an Egyptian naval force of two destroyers, two submarines, and a patrol frigate was at sea tonight. The Israeli military command expected the Egyptian navy to cut off the sea lanes to Israeli ports in the Red Sea.

8. In Cairo, civil defense precautions are being more widely observed than was the case last night. The blackout is about 75 percent effective, with major squares generally lit by only one light. Pedestrian activity is light; civilian vehicular activity has been augmented by increased military traffic. The atmosphere among the civilian population appears slightly more optimistic, undoubtedly buoyed by Cairo radio's encouraging accounts of the military situation east of the canal. Foreign communities, including the American, are unperturbed.

SYRIAN FRONT

9. According to Israeli radio reporting late this evening Israeli time, the Syrian armored and infantry attack in the Golan Heights has been halted. Israeli ground forces, supported by their air force, drove the Syrians out of most places captured earlier in the day. At nightfall the Syrians still held territory in the central section of the Golan Heights at Hushniyeh, but Israeli defense lines reportedly had been stabilized in most other sectors along the front. Israeli forces in the area are now being reinforced by reserve regiments.

10. During the day the Israelis concentrated on suppressing Syrian ground to air missiles.

[redacted] their air force was able to attack the massed Syrian forces for about 8 hours. No figures were provided on number of tanks destroyed, but [redacted]

[redacted] several hundred were put out of action. Casualties on both sides were described as heavy. It is believed that the Syrians have committed almost all of their available tank force by now.

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11. Little fighting has been reported during the evening hours although Israeli aircraft were operating over the Golan Heights as late as 2300 local time.

SOVIET ACTIVITY

12. The Soviets have made or scheduled a total of 10 civil and military Il-18 flights to Syria in what is apparently the second phase of their evacuation effort. Three flights left Syria for the USSR today, four are in Syria or on the way and three more are scheduled to leave for Syria tomorrow. These flights could evacuate almost 1,000 people and are in addition to the flights made to Syria on the eve of hostilities.

13. The Egyptians announced that Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov met with President Sadat today but gave no further details. Sadat may have replied to party chief Brezhnev's message of yesterday. There have been no other significant Soviet political or military developments.

UNITED NATIONS

14. The Egyptians have demanded that the UN Truce Supervisory Organization withdraw all its observers from their posts all along the Canal. There are some 18 posts, 9 on the Egyptian side, 9 on the Israeli. The Egyptian order almost certainly was given because Egypt has established control of major portions of the East Bank. There is also evidence that the Egyptians believe that some UN observers on the Israeli side were collaborating with the Israelis. The UNTSO observers are complying with the Egyptian request.

15. Other UN developments of note include:

--President Nixon's order to Secretary Kissinger to request a meeting of the Security Council;

--UNTSO chief's appeal to the parties to the conflict to cease all military activity and adhere strictly to the ceasefire;

- 4 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--Defense Minister Dayan's statement of 6 October in regard to a possible cease-fire that he hoped it "would not redound to the advantage of the enemy."

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ARAB STATES

16. Libya's President Qadhafi, according to press accounts of a late night speech, stated, "I will not say when and where we will intervene, but we will certainly do it if there is no international decision to put an end to Israeli aggression." Alluding to Egypt, Qadhafi added, "any aggression against one of the states of the federation is an attack against Libya." He added that the funds necessary for Egypt and Syria to support the war will be immediately transferred from Libya to those states.

17. Tripoli remains quiet, with no unusual concentrations of police, military, or other security forces in evidence.

[REDACTED]

18. Jordan's King Husayn, [REDACTED] was reported to be in a "martial" mood, having visited a number of Jordanian army divisions. He said [REDACTED] however, that Jordan's current intention continues to be to stay out of the conflict, but that it would be difficult not to become involved should Israel drive significantly beyond the earlier cease fire lines or should there be a clear-cut Arab victory. Husayn is particularly upset at alleged Israeli violations of Jordanian airspace in its air battles with Syria and at Israeli jamming of Jordanian radar. The King is grateful

~~TOP SECRET~~

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~~TOP SECRET~~

that Syria's President Asad has not pressed him harder to join the battle. He remains convinced that Jordan's interests lie in an early cease-fire, which he would support.

19. Algerian air units have arrived in Egypt, according to radio statements from Algiers and Cairo. In addition, all leaves have been canceled for Algerian military personnel. President Boumediene, in his capacity as chairman of the fourth nonaligned summit, has sent a message to the heads of state of all major nations, asking them, "especially the US, to stop rendering any political, economic, or financial aid to Israel."

20. A fedayeen military spokesman has claimed that Palestinian forces have captured an Israeli position on the slopes of Mount Hermon, shot down two Israeli aircraft in southern Lebanon, and captured two pilots. The Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization has decided to "take all measures necessary to send the Palestinian Revolution's forces to Jordan," called for a general strike in the Israeli-controlled "occupied territories," and appealed to all Arab states to stop their oil production.

21. In Kuwait, an evening news report carried an official statement that "any interference on the part of Israeli supporters in the current Mideast hostilities will be considered as an attack on Kuwait." [redacted]

22. Moroccan King Hassan, according to press reports, has stated that the Moroccan armed forces are ready and are waiting for the signal from the Egyptian military command to move to the Egyptian front. [redacted] the armed forces began recalling personnel from leave late this afternoon. In other Arab developments, Tunisia, Yemen (Sana), and Iraq have put their armies on alert or called up reserve forces.

- 6 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE - CIA INFO □ DATE: 04-Sep-2012

~~TOP SECRET~~LATE ITEMS

23. An Egyptian submarine has fired on a tanker of Panamanian registry enroute to Eilat from the Persian Gulf. Three torpedoes were fired; all missed. The Israelis take this to be further evidence that Egypt is attempting to impose a blockade of all shipping headed for Eilat.

24. The Syrians tonight fired seven FROG missiles into the Nazareth area. All have headed for the outskirts of Nazareth, suggesting to the Israelis that there may be a fault in the guidance system.

25. The Soviet Navy is playing no part in the Middle East fighting, and the Black Sea Fleet has not reinforced the Soviet Mediterranean Squadron. The Squadron's flagship and a cruiser are about to join four Soviet combatant ships at anchor northwest of Crete. A Soviet missile destroyer is trailing the USS Independence which is operating south of Crete.

- 7 -

~~TOP SECRET~~